

EXTERNAL SURVEY DETACHMENT 44

U. S. NAVY

Shanghai

APO 917
1 October 1946

TO : Commanding Officer, External Survey Detachment
44, U. S. Navy, APO 917.
SUBJECT: Communications Section Monthly Report.

1. GENERAL PROGRESS.

25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

Traffic to and from Washington is now being handled entirely by Navy facilities. Although test messages through this circuit were sent and received in less than eight hours each way, service has been spotty. Garbles have been more frequent than on the Army circuit. In a few cases the precedence of messages was not observed and traffic delays have been numerous. The latter was caused partly by typhoons which damaged radio teletype equipment of Guam. Complaints have been registered with the local Navy Headquarters and at this writing service has improved considerably. A new teletype (TC-19) has been procured locally and installed in the radio room to replace the worn out machine. This will cut maintenance time to a fraction of previous requirements.

It was found that much traffic from Washington is received at the Navy message center, Shanghai, shortly after closing hours of this headquarters. Such traffic has been held at Navy until the following morning. In order that the best possible service be given by communications section, one message center man has been given an evening assignment to break this late traffic and prepare it for distribution when our offices open the next morning. When traffic requiring immediate attention is received after hours, the message center clerk will contact the addressee if possible so that necessary action may be taken.

A cipher machine has been installed at Tsingtao in anticipation of heavy traffic between that station and Shanghai. Satisfactory test messages were exchanged on 30 September and regular traffic began to flow on that date. This cipher machine is capable of handling several times the volume previously handled by hand ciphers. A BC-610 (high powered transmitter) has been crated and is awaiting transportation to Tsingtao.

The Shanghai transmitter room now contains four BC-610's with one each RCA-4332 and one each RCA-4336 held in reserve. The receiver room has four operating positions. The telephone switchboard has 24 drops - an increase of five during the past month.

The message center has been moved to the second floor of the Administration Building, thereby gaining more space and better lighting. Furthermore, it is now more accessible to the commanding officer, S. I., and the Registry desk.

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Lt. Saunders inspected the Canton field station during this period. Captain Olson visited all northern stations in conjunction with the pay run. This trip enabled the communications officer to meet all field personnel and discuss their problems. A report system was set up whereby field stations will send in a monthly report to be consolidated into the communications office report. Such items reported on include monthly group count, personnel, condition of equipment and anticipated needs.

2. PERSONNEL.

The following personnel changes have been made during the month of September: Civ. Joseph J. Butchowski transferred from Mukden to Tientsin. Civs. Aubrey E. Greenlaw and Anthony M. Chrisler sent from Shanghai to Tientsin for training. Civ. Raymond E. Eggers relieved at Mukden and sent stateside. Civ. Robert E. Hoover transferred from Shanghai to Tsingtao as crypt machine operator. Civ. Dee R. Witt relieved at Changchun and awaiting transportation to the United States. Arrived from the states are civilians William F. Knight, Cecil R. Ketchum, and John B. Kenkol. New arrivals report a fourth man is in Tokyo awaiting transportation to Shanghai.

3. RADIO NET.

After inspection of field stations, personnel and equipment on Captain Olson's recent trip, it was decided that communications could do a bigger and better job with the material at hand. Therefore, a new radio plan was written and distributed to all stations. The new plan provides for a continuous watch by the six major stations in this theatre (Peiping, Tientsin, Tsingtao, Mukden, Changchun and Shanghai) from 0830 to 1200 and from 1300 to 1700 daily and from 1800 to 1200 Sunday - all times local. Operation of above plan will enable all stations to communicate with each other at any time during watch hours and thereby pass traffic immediately after it has been enciphered. Secondary stations (Tsinan and Canton) can call into the major net at any time but keep regular schedules for the receipt of traffic. In any case no message will be held over night at any station.

4. TRAINING SCHOOL.

Four Chinese Nationals have been dropped from the communications school at Tientsin. These men did not come up to the standards set by Captain Scott. Eight Chinese Nationals have completed communications training and are available for field assignments. This number is believed adequate to supply present and future needs. These operators who have successfully completed training will be distributed throughout the various field stations shortly where they will be used as substitute base operators, transmitter attendants, etc. All trainees are capable of sending and receiving 15 words per minute or better and have a cipher speed of 150 groups per hour minimum. All the above have been thoroughly trained in the TR-1, base station equipment, power supplies of all kinds, antennae, radio procedure, cryptography, security, and have had extensive field practice.

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5. FUTURE.

The most important work for the future is the building up of Tientsin as a field supply base and maintenance center for communications equipment. Approximately sixty per cent of replacement and repair equipment now in Shanghai will be shipped north. Most of this equipment has already been packed and is awaiting transportation. The remaining forty per cent will be used to service Shanghai and Canton stations.

It is also planned to place all field stations on authorized frequencies. Field stations are now operating on frequencies selected at random. This change to authorized frequencies will insure an open channel and avoid possible future friction with U. S. Army and Navy communications authorities and the Chinese Ministry of Communications.

6. SUPPLY.

The supply situation is good. A fair supply of tubes, batteries, etc. was laid in before the Army Signal Supply left Shanghai. Arrangements have been made through Mr. John Hook to draw on Navy signal stores at Tsingtao. There is no urgent need for any item. Relations with the Navy unit at Shanghai are firm enough to expect emergency supply and maintenance assistance if necessary.

Howard J. Olson
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Captain Sig. C.
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